**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE EMMA MAE SMITH‑PARKER OF HALLANDALE, FLORIDA, THE BELOVED MATRIARCH OF THE SMITH‑TOBIN FAMILY, UPON THE OCCASION OF THEIR FAMILY REUNION JULY 24, 2010, AND TO HONOR HER FOR HER DEDICATION AND DETERMINATION TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN STRONG FAMILY TIES AMONG ALL THE SMITH‑TOBIN FAMILY MEMBERS.

Whereas, in a time when mobility and displacement from family roots make those relationships more difficult to sustain, the South Carolina Senate takes great pleasure in commending the efforts of Emma Mae Smith‑Parker who has played an ongoing role in bringing the Smith‑Tobin family together for their biennial family reunions; and

Whereas, Emma Mae Smith‑Parker, the oldest living descendent of the Ned and Carolina (Hay) Smith family, was the fourth of thirteen children born to Henry and Ella Tobin Smith in 1925 in Martin, South Carolina; and

Whereas, Emma Mae Smith‑Parker, a bold and brave teenager, left South Carolina seeking opportunities in promising south Florida, where she met and married her beloved husband, Joseph “Joe” Parker, also a South Carolinian, who went on to his greater reward in 2002. And although Emma Mae found work in Florida and has made her home there, she has never forgotten her South Carolina roots; and

Whereas, “Aunt Em,” as the matriarch of this large and loving family is fondly known, is an anchor of her family and the glue that holds them all together. She has been known to use her precious resources and unfailing determination to make endless inquires in her efforts to locate and return to the fold those members of the family flock who have ventured off; and

Whereas, long before there was “e‑mail,” her dedication and desire to keep her family connected and in touch spawned “em‑mail”. Family members were thrilled to receive a letter, card, or package from Aunt Em and later, as telephone service became more accessible, to have a telephone visit with their much‑loved Aunt Em; and

Whereas, Emma Mae Smith‑Parker has not only been a loyal and faithful sibling over these many years, but she has also been a friend and mentor, giving her love and guidance to numerous nieces and nephews, who have come to rely on her myriad experiences and embrace her wisdom; and

Whereas, along with the love of her family and the countless activities for keeping in touch, Emma Mae is devoted to her cherished companion Brownie, affectionately known as “Mommy Gal,” with whom she walks twice daily and upon whom she dotes at every opportunity; and

Whereas, it is proper and fitting for the members of the South Carolina Senate to pause in their deliberations to recognize and honor a such a lovely daughter of South Carolina and to wish her and the members of the Smith‑Tobin family their very best as the family gathers on July 24, 2010, in Barnwell, South Carolina for their family reunion. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize Emma Mae Smith‑Parker of Hallandale, Florida, the beloved matriarch of the Smith‑Tobin family, upon the occasion of their family reunion July 24, 2010, and to honor her for her dedication and determination to build and maintain strong family ties among all the Smith‑Tobin family members.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Emma Mae Smith‑Parker.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑